

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05

PM-03 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 INRE-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8422

INFO SECDEF

USMISSIN NATO

USNMR SHAPE

RSDELMC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T ATHENS 3032

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS - POSTPONEMENT OF FOURTH  
PLENARY OF 2D ROUND

REFS: A) ATHENS 3024NOTAL; B) ATHENS 2921

1. PRIOR TO SCHEDULED OPENING OF FOURTH PLENARY SESSION  
ON APR 18, STEARNS TELEPHONED CALOGERAS AND ASKED HIM  
WHETHER GREEK SIDE WOULD BE ABLE TO CONCEDE CONTINUING US  
PRESENCE AT HELLENIKON AIR BASE WHEN PLENARY CONVENED.  
CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION  
FROM CARAMANLIS OR BITSIOS TO PROVIDE THESE ASSURANCES BEFORE  
THEIR DEPARTURE FOR PARIS ON APR 16. BITSIOS HAD INDICATED  
TO HIM, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER WITH CARAMANLIS  
AND CALOGERAS HOPED TO RECEIVE NEW AND MORE FLEXIBLE  
INSTRUCTIONS WHEN PM PARTY RETURNED SUNDAY EVENING,

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APR 10. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CALOGERAS

AND STEARNS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO POSTPONE FOURTH PLENARY UNTIL APRIL 22, BY WHICH TIME CALOGERAS BELIEVED HE MIGHT HAVE NEW INSTRUCTIONS. IN THE MEANTIME, CALOGERAS AND STEARNS AGREED TO MEET INFORMALLY TODAY TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE TO DATE AND REACH GENERAL AGREEMENT ON FUTURE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

2. WHEN STEARNS SAW CALOGERAS AT NOON TODAY, HE FOUND HIM PESSIMISTIC ABOUT HELLENIKON AND ALMOST EVERYTHING ELSE. ACCORDING TO CALOGERAS, HE HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM PARIS THAT PM HAD BEEN "DEEPLY UPSET" BY REMARKS ON GREECE ATTRIBUTED TO VP ROCKEFELLER. CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS (PRESUMABLY FROM BITSIOS) TO TAKE A TOUGH LINE BOTH IN PLENARY MEETINGS AND IN SUBGROUPS. CALOGERAS HAD CONVEYED THESE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE GREEK MEMBERS OF THE SUBGROUP ON SOFA AND SAID HE WANTED STEARNS TO KNOW THIS BACKGROUND SINCE THE SOFA SUBGROUP WAS MEETING THAT MORNING. (IN FACT AS WE ARE REPORTING SEPTEL, THE SOFA SUBGROUP THIS MORNING SEEMS TO HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS AND THERE WAS NO SIGN OF A NEW AND HARDER GREEK ATTITUDE. IT MAY BE THAT CALOGERAS EXAGGERATED BITSIOS' ANNOYANCE FOR TACTICAL REASONS, OR THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO CONVEY "NEW" INSTRUCTIONS TO SOFA SUBGROUP BEFORE MEETING BEGAN.)

3. STEARNS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT TENOR OF REMARKS BY CALOGERAS AND SAID THAT SO MUCH HARD WORK HAD BEEN DONE TO BRING US TO PRESENT POINT IN NEGOTIATIONS THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE TO SEE PROGRESS JEOPARDIZED BY MOMENTARY GREEK ANGER OVER REPORTED STATEMENTS BY VP WHICH WERE TOTALLY UNCONFIRMED AND, IN ANY EVENT, UNRELATED TO THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS. THE COMPROMISES UNDER DISCUSSION WERE IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH GREECE AND THE US. THEY SHOULD NOT BE SACRIFICED TO MOODS OF THE MOMENT.

4. CALOGERAS INSISTED THAT US SIDE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE INDIGNATION CAUSED BY REMARKS ATTRIBUTED BY THE VP. STATEMENTS OF MAVROS AND PAPANDREOU REDUCED GOG'S MARGIN FOR COMPROMISE IN THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS. HE FEARED THAT GREEK SIDE AT NEXT PLENARY WOULD HAVE TO INSIST ONCE AGAIN THAT ALL US FACILITIES AT HELLENIKON BE ELIMINATED.

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5. STEARNS SAID THAT SUCH A POSITION WOULD BE AGAINST GREEK AS WELL AS US INTERESTS. IT WOULD FURTHERMORE STALL THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND DEPRIVE GOG OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ANNOUNCING BEFORE THE END OF ROUND TWO DECISIONS WHICH STEARNS BELIEVED WOULD BE POLITICALLY USEFUL TO THE GREEKS. HE TOLD CALOGERAS THAT THE EMBASSY WAS SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO THE VICE PRES,

AND CAUTIONED CALOGERAS AGAINST OVER-REACTING TO PRESS STORIES. MEANWHILE, HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CALOGERAS WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK MORE FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONS ON US PRESENCE AT HELLENIKON.

THIS IN TURN WOULD PERMIT ACCELERATED PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS. CALOGERAS PROFESSED HIMSELF TO BE SKEPTICAL BUT SAID HE WOULD TEST THE TEMPERATURE OF CARAMANLIS AND BITSIOS WHEN THEY RETURNED FROM PARIS. HE AND STEARNS AGREED TO BE IN CONTACT AGAIN ON MONDAY.

6. COMMENT: IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER WE HAVE NEW PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO HELLENIKON (OR, MORE ACCURATELY, WHETHER OLD PROBLEMS ARE BEING RE-INTRODUCED). CALOGERAS MAY BE CREATING THE IMPRESSION OF A HARDER GREEK POSITION AS A NEGOTIATING PLOY. WHEN TZOUNIS TALKED TO STEARNS LATER, HIS REMARKS WERE LESS POINTED THAN THOSE OF CALOGERAS (SEE REF A), ALTHOUGH HE LEFT NO DOUBT THE GREEKS WERE DISTURBED BY PRESS STORIES CONCERNING THE VICE PRES. HOPEFULLY, WITH THE HELP OF SOME REASSURING WORDS FROM WASHINGTON OVER THE WEEKEND, THE TEMPEST WILL CALM DOWN AND ENABLE US TO RESUME CONTACT WITH THE GREEK SIDE IN A BETTER ATMOSPHERE ON MONDAY. KUBISCH

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